

The airwaves are owned by the American people. Broadcasters are allowed to use them.

In recent years, single individuals and corporations have been supported, by FCC decision, in purchasing and owning multiple numbers of radio and television stations. Most of these decisions have been made despite the outcry from thousands of people across the nation.

Consequently, I feel that the attempt by the Sinclair Broadcast Corporation to influence an entire nation of voters just days before a national election can be laid directly at the feet of those FCC members who consistently show preference in allowing a few to own large blocks of media outlets.

This is the result- one man trying to influence millions with "information" that may well be no more than hear-say and vitriolic attempts to singly decide a very close election.

This election campaign has been ugly enough. As it is, many Americans are questioning the validity of election outcome in the United States. I believe that to allow the CEO of Sinclair to use influence to force stations under his "command" to run a propaganda campaign at this crucial time will cause irreparable harm to the media, which has already taken some severe hits during the 2004 campaigns. I also think that it will further erode the American people's faith in free and honest elections, and could be a major target of furor should there be any questioning of the totals in a close election.

This whole move could backfire on the mass media industry (and the decisions of the FCC) in ways that have not even been considered. The feelings among many voters are very strong, and even supporters of Mr. Bush are likely to recognize the sleaze of this action.

This is an opportunity for the FCC help maintain some integrity in mass media. Please tell Sinclair Broadcasting that this is an inappropriate use of their "borrowed" airways, and a truly disgusting attempt at guerrilla warfare on a process that is a basic of our democratic system.

Thank you.  
Lois Keel